

News

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HIGHLIGHTS OF SEATTLE-TACOMA-BREMERTON, WA NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY DECEMBER 2000

Workers in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, Washington, metropolitan area averaged \$18.89 per hour during December 2000, according to a new survey released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Regional Commissioner Stanley P. Stephenson reported that white-collar workers averaged \$21.87 per hour and accounted for 55 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$17.64 per hour and represented 27 percent of the workforce, while the remainder worked in service occupations and earned \$12.08 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for occupations in establishments employing 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government. This NCS covered 287 firms representing 769,000 workers in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton metropolitan area, which includes Island, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, and Thurston Counties. Seventy-eight percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for over 90 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, lawyers averaged \$38.11 per hour; accountants and auditors, \$24.80; computer programmers, \$22.17; and secretaries, \$15.89. Blue-collar occupations included electricians earning \$28.99, automobile mechanics at \$21.24 per hour, and construction laborers at \$16.62. In the service occupations, firefighters averaged \$22.53 per hour, janitors and cleaners at \$10.38, and waiters and waitresses averaged \$7.09.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See table 2.) For example, full-time employees in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton metropolitan area averaged \$19.53 per hour and part-time workers earned \$13.73. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$19.70 per hour, while their nonunion counterparts made \$14.65. Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$15.34 per hour and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$20.63.

National Compensation Survey, Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA, December 2000 (continued)

The NCS is a part of a statistical program that will eventually integrate three separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgement, supervision received, and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA National Compensation Survey December 2000 (Bulletin number 3110-01). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the San Francisco Information Office by calling 415-975-4350. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm>. Select survey tables can also be obtained from Ready Facts, the Bureau's fax-on-demand service, in San Francisco by dialing 415-975-4567 and requesting document 9580.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the San Francisco Information Office at 415-975-4350 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. pacific time.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,(1) all workers:(2) Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA, December 2000

Occupation(3)	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All.....	\$18.89	2.1	\$17.84	2.6	\$23.19	2.5
All excluding sales.....	19.20	2.1	18.12	2.7	23.20	2.5
White collar.....	21.87	2.2	20.77	2.7	25.29	3.2
White collar excluding sales.....	22.95	2.2	22.03	2.8	25.31	3.2
Professional specialty and technical.....	25.69	2.4	24.49	3.6	27.73	2.6
Professional specialty.....	27.58	2.4	26.78	3.8	28.61	2.6
Engineers, architects, and surveyors.....	32.74	7.0	-	-	-	-
Mathematical and computer scientists.....	26.30	3.8	26.57	4.2	24.69	5.2
Computer systems analysts and scientists..	26.08	3.7	26.32	4.2	24.69	5.2
Natural scientists.....	28.91	11.9	-	-	-	-
Health related.....	26.92	4.5	27.87	5.7	24.30	3.6
Registered nurses.....	25.73	2.8	25.72	3.3	25.75	4.0
Pharmacists.....	33.76	3.3	33.76	3.3	-	-
Therapists, n.e.c.....	16.44	7.0	-	-	-	-
Teachers, college and university.....	38.03	7.9	28.94	17.5	-	-
Teachers, except college and university.....	28.75	3.3	15.68	14.4	30.54	1.6
Prekindergarten and kindergarten.....	17.66	27.9	-	-	-	-
Elementary school teachers.....	30.91	2.1	-	-	31.16	2.1
Secondary school teachers.....	31.09	2.5	24.11	20.2	31.52	2.2
Teachers, special education.....	29.68	3.9	-	-	29.68	3.9
Teachers, n.e.c.....	27.87	4.5	-	-	29.06	5.5
Substitute teachers.....	13.92	5.9	-	-	-	-
Vocational and educational counselors.....	19.43	23.7	-	-	-	-
Librarians, archivists, and curators.....	26.23	11.6	-	-	26.23	11.6
Social scientists and urban planners.....	17.60	11.5	-	-	-	-
Social, recreation, and religious workers.....	18.70	5.9	13.38	5.9	20.69	3.2
Social workers.....	18.78	6.0	13.53	7.3	20.49	3.0
Lawyers and judges.....	38.11	8.7	38.78	10.7	35.08	3.9
Lawyers.....	38.11	8.7	38.78	10.7	35.08	3.9
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.....	22.92	7.1	23.67	7.2	-	-
Designers.....	23.46	7.2	23.46	7.2	-	-
Editors and reporters.....	20.48	11.1	22.11	14.6	-	-
Technical.....	19.61	4.1	19.66	4.6	19.29	5.4
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians.....	16.04	7.5	-	-	-	-
Licensed practical nurses.....	16.71	1.8	16.76	2.4	16.57	1.7
Electrical and electronic technicians.....	19.23	20.2	19.23	20.2	-	-
Engineering technicians, n.e.c.....	20.45	5.9	-	-	-	-
Computer programmers.....	22.17	8.9	-	-	-	-
Technical and related, n.e.c.....	20.16	12.4	19.44	14.6	-	-

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,(1) all workers;(2) Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA, December 2000 (Continued)

Occupation(3)	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
White collar (Continued)						
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	\$29.89	3.8	\$29.12	3.8	\$32.85	10.7
Executives, administrators, and managers...	33.73	5.2	32.25	5.2	39.37	12.6
Financial managers.....	30.05	12.0	30.05	12.0	-	-
Administrators, education and related fields	33.61	9.2	18.26	10.6	36.81	9.5
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.....	36.42	5.0	36.07	5.2	-	-
Management related.....	24.66	4.1	24.87	4.8	23.82	5.2
Accountants and auditors.....	24.80	7.0	25.59	7.8	-	-
Other financial officers.....	26.93	11.1	26.94	11.8	-	-
Management related, n.e.c.....	26.05	11.8	25.99	14.9	-	-
Sales.....	14.90	5.6	14.89	5.6	-	-
Supervisors, sales.....	22.77	10.1	22.84	10.4	-	-
Sales representatives, mining, manufacturing, and wholesale.....	30.48	32.6	30.48	32.6	-	-
Sales workers, motor vehicles and boats...	22.49	8.2	22.49	8.2	-	-
Sales workers, parts.....	18.15	6.5	18.15	6.5	-	-
Sales workers, other commodities.....	9.16	4.0	9.16	4.0	-	-
Cashiers.....	12.90	4.5	12.91	4.5	-	-
Administrative support, including clerical.....	14.76	2.4	15.00	2.8	13.79	1.8
Supervisors, general office.....	21.96	7.2	-	-	-	-
Secretaries.....	15.89	4.2	16.44	5.0	14.09	3.6
Receptionists.....	10.94	3.0	10.87	3.1	-	-
Information clerks, n.e.c.....	11.88	3.3	-	-	-	-
Order clerks.....	15.61	8.1	15.61	8.1	-	-
Library clerks.....	11.53	7.2	-	-	11.52	7.9
Records clerks, n.e.c.....	14.57	4.7	14.81	5.6	-	-
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks.....	13.69	5.2	13.54	6.0	14.68	4.8
Billing clerks.....	15.79	9.1	-	-	-	-
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks.....	15.82	15.7	15.82	15.7	-	-
Stock and inventory clerks.....	18.65	7.1	18.71	7.6	-	-
Investigators and adjusters, except insurance.....	13.47	3.0	13.47	3.0	-	-
General office clerks.....	13.90	3.9	14.18	5.3	13.35	3.5
Data entry keyers.....	12.04	9.3	12.04	9.3	-	-
Teachers' aides.....	12.07	4.0	-	-	12.07	4.0
Administrative support, n.e.c.....	15.03	5.4	15.30	7.7	14.61	5.4
Blue collar.....	17.64	2.5	17.50	2.8	19.01	2.8
Precision production, craft, and repair.....	21.89	2.9	21.92	3.1	21.60	4.7
Supervisors, mechanics and repairers.....	23.74	3.4	23.74	3.4	-	-
Automobile mechanics.....	21.24	4.1	21.23	4.2	-	-

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,(1) all workers:(2) Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA, December 2000 (Continued)

Occupation(3)	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Blue collar (Continued)						
Precision production, craft, and repair (Continued)						
Bus, truck, and stationary engine mechanics.....	\$21.37	2.1	\$21.39	2.2	-	-
Industrial machinery repairers.....	19.66	7.7	19.66	7.7	-	-
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.....	18.83	11.4	19.36	16.4	-	-
Electricians.....	28.99	4.7	-	-	-	-
Construction trades, n.e.c.....	16.74	4.8	-	-	-	-
Supervisors, production.....	23.40	14.9	23.40	14.9	-	-
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	15.89	4.6	15.89	4.6	-	-
Molding and casting machine operators.....	12.54	8.9	12.54	8.9	-	-
Printing press operators.....	16.40	6.4	16.40	6.4	-	-
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.....	13.93	8.2	13.93	8.2	-	-
Welders and cutters.....	15.72	5.2	15.72	5.2	-	-
Assemblers.....	17.99	3.6	17.99	3.6	-	-
Production inspectors, checkers and examiners.....	18.00	12.3	18.00	12.3	-	-
Transportation and material moving.....	17.43	4.8	17.14	6.3	\$18.54	3.3
Truck drivers.....	16.44	5.1	16.46	5.1	-	-
Bus drivers.....	16.95	4.8	-	-	17.30	4.4
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators.....	16.88	11.1	16.88	11.1	-	-
Miscellaneous material moving equipment operators, n.e.c.....	18.54	10.2	18.89	14.1	-	-
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	12.34	3.6	12.04	3.9	15.64	3.0
Groundskeepers and gardeners, except farm.....	12.10	7.5	-	-	-	-
Construction laborers.....	16.62	1.4	-	-	-	-
Stock handlers and baggers.....	9.71	7.2	9.71	7.2	-	-
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.....	12.68	6.2	12.68	6.2	-	-
Vehicle washers and equipment cleaners...	10.33	7.4	10.33	7.4	-	-
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.....	11.17	6.1	11.08	6.2	-	-
Service.....	12.08	4.7	10.01	4.4	19.14	4.5
Protective service.....	16.06	14.6	9.60	14.5	23.31	4.6
Supervisors, police and detectives.....	32.07	2.4	-	-	32.07	2.4
Firefighting.....	23.53	4.1	-	-	23.99	4.9
Police and detectives, public service.....	23.48	6.3	-	-	23.48	6.3
Guards and police, except public service....	8.65	7.7	8.53	7.1	-	-

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,(1) all workers:(2) Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA, December 2000 (Continued)

Occupation(3)	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Service (Continued)						
Food service.....	\$9.02	2.6	\$8.87	2.7	\$11.04	4.5
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders.....	7.48	5.4	7.48	5.4	-	-
Waiters and waitresses.....	7.09	3.7	7.09	3.7	-	-
Other food service.....	9.79	3.1	9.65	3.3	11.04	4.5
Supervisors, food preparation and service..	12.55	11.3	12.55	11.3	-	-
Cooks.....	10.30	5.5	9.89	5.5	-	-
Food counter, fountain, and related.....	8.92	7.4	8.76	8.0	-	-
Kitchen workers, food preparation.....	9.22	4.6	9.27	4.8	-	-
Food preparation, n.e.c.....	9.55	5.6	9.25	6.6	-	-
Health service.....	10.71	3.2	10.22	3.3	13.46	3.2
Health aides, except nursing.....	11.27	6.9	10.84	9.5	12.57	5.4
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants.....	10.62	3.3	10.13	3.2	13.73	3.6
Cleaning and building service.....	10.66	3.7	10.05	3.6	13.40	1.4
Supervisors, cleaning and building service workers.....	15.91	13.0	15.97	13.8	-	-
Maids and housemen.....	8.97	3.0	8.94	3.1	-	-
Janitors and cleaners.....	10.38	3.9	9.59	3.2	13.41	1.4
Personal service.....	12.31	15.7	12.36	17.0	11.71	4.8
Attendants, amusement, and recreation facilities.....	7.63	1.7	7.63	1.7	-	-
Welfare service aides.....	8.80	7.0	-	-	-	-
Early childhood teachers' assistants.....	10.93	9.7	-	-	-	-
Child care workers, n.e.c.....	9.00	11.4	-	-	-	-
Service, n.e.c.....	12.61	12.6	12.61	12.6	-	-

1 Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

2 All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

3 A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

4 The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a confidence interval around a sample estimate.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means not elsewhere classified. Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 2. Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings(1) by occupational group,(2) National Compensation Survey, Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA, December 2000

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers ³	Part-time workers ³	Union ⁴	Nonunion ⁴	Time ⁵	Incentive ⁵
All occupations.....	\$19.53	\$13.73	\$19.86	\$18.13	\$18.85	\$20.43
All excluding sales.....	19.77	14.39	20.32	18.31	19.21	19.10
White collar.....	22.52	16.93	21.36	22.18	21.86	22.32
White-collar excluding sales.....	23.43	18.97	22.71	23.09	22.95	-
Professional specialty and technical.....	26.21	22.67	26.48	24.95	25.69	-
Professional specialty.....	28.10	24.68	28.28	26.94	27.58	-
Technical.....	20.28	15.19	21.02	18.13	19.61	-
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	29.92	-	23.39	30.35	29.88	-
Sales.....	16.22	8.33	13.24	16.02	13.32	22.31
Administrative support, including clerical.....	15.11	12.13	15.94	14.00	14.69	-
Blue collar.....	18.27	9.74	19.70	14.65	17.57	18.92
Precision production, craft, and repair.....	21.95	-	22.76	20.32	21.78	23.46
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	16.30	-	19.35	12.47	15.88	-
Transportation and material moving.....	17.93	12.28	20.11	12.83	17.50	15.88
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	13.36	8.67	12.98	11.43	12.24	13.97
Service.....	12.55	9.43	16.13	9.35	12.07	-

1 Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

2 A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

3 Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

4 Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

5 Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.

Table 3. Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings(1) by occupational group,(2) private industry, National Compensation Survey, Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA, December 2000

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers ³	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
Mean					
All occupations.....	\$17.84	\$15.34	\$18.49	\$16.44	\$20.63
All excluding sales.....	18.12	15.07	18.87	16.78	20.83
White collar.....	20.77	18.25	21.33	19.35	22.94
White-collar excluding sales.....	22.03	18.88	22.58	21.25	23.41
Professional specialty and technical.....	24.49	19.88	25.07	23.39	26.11
Professional specialty.....	26.78	20.52	27.38	25.91	28.33
Technical.....	19.66	19.12	19.76	17.19	21.23
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	29.12	24.65	30.04	30.78	29.63
Sales.....	14.89	16.96	13.82	13.97	-
Administrative support, including clerical.....	15.00	14.83	15.03	13.83	15.87
Blue collar.....	17.50	15.17	18.27	16.10	21.31
Precision production, craft, and repair.....	21.92	20.56	22.38	21.83	-
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	15.89	12.80	16.82	13.78	-
Transportation and material moving.....	17.14	13.40	18.38	16.55	24.63
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	12.04	10.38	12.62	11.72	15.49
Service.....	10.01	8.77	10.36	10.14	10.64

1 Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

2 A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

3 Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.